

士 郎 正 宗

THE PROMETHEAN CHALLENGE

APPLESEED™

S H I R O W M A S A M U N E



APPLESEED™

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APPLIED™ BOOK (M): THE PROMETHEAN CHALLENGE

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士郎正宗

THE PROMETHEAN CHALLENGE

APPLESEED™

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translation by DANA LEWIS and TOREN SMITH
[with DUANE JOHNSON]lettering by L. LOIS BUHALIS and JOHN CLARK
[with TOM ORZECOWSKI and SASQUATCH]

000



[1] TRIPLE HOUND HUNTING

003



[2] CIVVY STREET

005



[3] EVEN BETS

002



[4] HOSPITALITY

100



[5] HOT POTATO

121



[6] BATTLE OF TITAN

138



[7] REST

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S H I R O W

士 郎 正 宗

M A S A M U N E

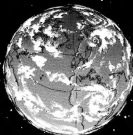


It was in that year that the flames of war

broke out simultaneously in every corner
of the globe. To the vast movement of armies,
conflicts spread, merged, grew, escalating
into world war.

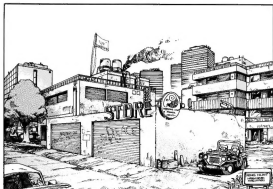
Knowledge was lost. Confusion reigned.
New powers rose to displace the old nations.

Nuclear weapons themselves were never
used. But even without them, the Earth
became a quieter planet . . .



1. プロメテウスの挑戦







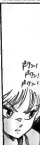


*Sarin is a rapid-onset nerve gas.
(Yellow does bring 02.0000000005 cc.)





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Page 1 Explains the Situation. Page 2 Explains the Situation and the fact that the character is not a combat armor. Page 3 Explains the Situation.



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PG. TWENTY



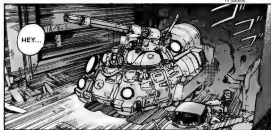
PG. TWENTY











PG. 000000



PG. 000000







THERE YOU GO... HAVE FUN.



TO CLIP



WE'LL JUST HAVE TO--

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?



MAYBE IT'S FULL OF INORGANIC ANDROIDS.

HEAVY ARMOR, THEN.



SOUNDS LIKE A LAND CRUISER... JUST ONE. IT'S MIGHTY SLOW FOR ALL THAT HORSE-POWER.



AND THE LETTERS... THAT MEANS A POSTAL SERVICE.



THAT PICTURE. SPYSAT WORK, NO DOUBT. ENLARGED AND ENHANCED.



NO. I MEAN-- WHAT SHE SAID.







I TRACKED
MOVEMENT
JUST BEFORE
IMPACT! TARGET
IS OFF OUR
PASSIVE
SENSORS!



BOOST
THE
HULL
CURRENT!





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Can't read? Go to www.flynn.com and ask...



SO KILL THEM NOW OR KILL THEM LATER... WHO CARES!



THOSE TWO... THEY MUST BE THE ONES HITOMI WAS SENT TO CONTACT...



ALL QUIET. NO RESPONSE AT ALL.

YOU READ ANYTHING?



YEAH. I'M SORRY-- I WAS TOO SLOW...

OKAY NOW?



BUT I GUESS WE DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE ABOUT PICKING SIDES...

SO... THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO OPPOSING FORCES.



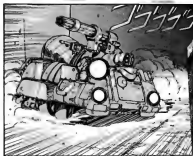
NO! NO! TAKE 'EM OUT RIGHT NOW...

WAIT! WE CAN USE THEM AS BAIT TO GET HITOMI!



I'LL TRY. THE NORTH END OF CENTRAL LOOKS GOOD.

THAT THING'S AN ANTIQUE, BUT IT'S BUILT FOR STREET FIGHTING. CAN YOU MAKE POSITION IN FIVE MINUTES?























THE EARTH'S BEEN UNIFIED BY THIS "CENTRAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU"??!



NOW IT'S THE CMB, AEGIS WE CALL THEM, LOOKING AFTER THE WHOLE PLANET.

CHECK!

SO NO ONE COUNTRY CAME OUT ON TOP?

HOLD ON, I THOUGHT YOU SAID "TOTAL DISARMAMENT" THAT WAS A PRETTY TOUGH BUNCH OUT THERE...

WE... WE HAD NO IDEA!

THEN, AS PART OF THE PLAN, WE'VE BEEN COMING OUT TO BADSIDE HERE, LOOKING FOR SOLD'S LIKE YOU AND BRINGING THEM BACK TO OLYMPUS CITY, WHERE AEGIS IS SET UP.

OF COURSE, OTHER THAN TOTAL DISARMAMENT AND THE SUPERVISION OF TRADE AND ECONOMY, EVERY COUNTRY'S PRETTY MUCH FREE TO DO AS THEY PLEASE.







OKAY?
LISTEN
UP!



LOOK
EVERYWHERE
AT ONCE!
MARK ANYTHING
THAT MOVES
BEFORE YOU
PULL THE TRIGGER
SEE THE
TARGET!

ANYTIME
YOU LOOK
RIGHT, LOOK
LEFT!
ANYTIME
YOU LOOK
UP, LOOK
DOWN!



KEEP
YOUR
FEELINGS
OUT
OF THIS,
BRIAREOS
!

CARL! LET HER
REST, DAMN IT!
YOU DON'T
NEED TO MAKE
YOUR OWN
DAUGHTER...

I TOLD
YOU TO
KEEP YOUR
EYES
MOVING!
THOSE AREN'T
REAL BULLETS..
CHECK
LATER!



SO WHY?
?!

WHAT
ARE YOU
TRAINING
HER FOR,
CARL?
THIS ISN'T
DELTA
FORCE!

DEUNAN!
HIT ANYTHING
THAT LOOKS
SUSPICIOUS.
DON'T HESITATE...
THE TARGETS
ARE
ARMED!



DEUNAN
WHAT'S
WRONG
?

DEU-
NAN
!



DON'T
JUST
LIE
THERE!

CAN'T YOU
DO ANYTHING
RIGHT?! IF
THIS WAS REAL
COMBAT
YOU'D BE
DEAD!



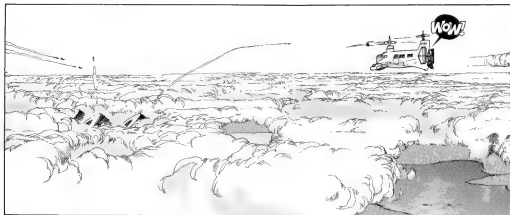
Yes, and and and and



*Olympus here the name of the city where the Comprehensive Administrative Bureau, is also the name of a mountain located in northern Greece. The country's highest peak at 2918m, on whose summit the gods lived in Greek mythology.



*S.W.A.T. Special Weapons and Tactics. A specialized police unit that carries out dangerous operations.



THEY MUST BE 2000 FEET HIGH!



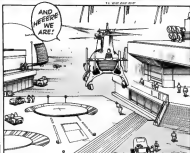


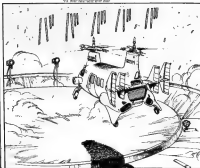


1P 1P 1P 1P 1P



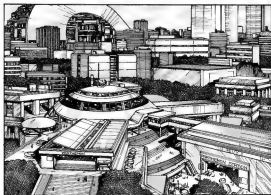
1P 1P 1P 1P 1P

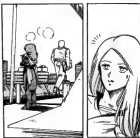
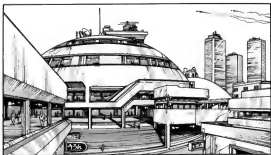




JUST ASK THE MAN IN GREEN, HERE.

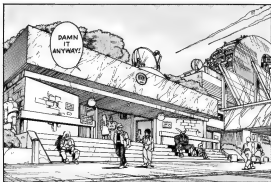




















THE FORKS ARE
FREE-FLOATING...
THE SLOWER YOU
GO, THE SHARPER
YOU TURN.



"FUNCTIONAL
SIMPLICITY,
STRUCTURAL
COMPLEXITY"
THE BEST LIFE
FOR ALL." THAT'S
THE MAXIM
THE CITY
PLANNERS
GAVE OUR
MANAGERS.



EVERYTHING
IN THE
CITY'S
CYBERNETIC.

I
THOUGHT
HYBRID
MATERIALS
WERE HOT
STUFF. BUT
THAT IS
CREEPY!



OPTICAL
FIBERS
BRING
NATURAL
SUNLIGHT
INSIDE.

EVEN THE
ARCOLOGY
BLOCKS ARE
DESIGNED TO
MINIMIZE
SHADOWS
IN THE
WINTER.

IF WE
WANTED,
WE COULD
TURN
NIGHT
INTO
DAY.

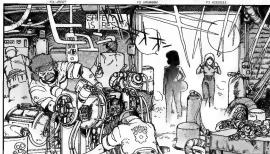
OPTO-
ELECTRONICS
LET YOU
TWO GET
THROUGH
REGIS-
TRATION SO
QUICKLY.

En?
GO
AHEAD.

MIND
IF I
MAKE
A LITTLE
DETOUR
?

SCIENCE.
THE
NEW
BLACK
MAGIC...

BLACK
OR WHITE,
IT'S ALL
UP TO
THE
USER...









*Landmate: the history of this kind of machine is surprisingly deep, and even now G2 is working hard at development.
A landmate is famous for fighting a spider.



USUALLY
YOU MAKE
IT SIT
BEFORE
YOU PUT
IT ON...

OH, YEAH...
I'M WORKING
ON THIS
ONE, SO I'VE
YANKED THE
BUFFERS
AND THE
EXOSKELETON.

JUST
SO
YOU
KNOW.



WE ALSO
CALL 'EM
SYNCHRO-
PROTECTORS
OR
EXOSKELETONS.
SEE?



PROTECTIVE
MOVEMENTS
ARE PERFECT
AROUND TO
120 DEGREES
EITHER
SIDE
...

BECAUSE OF
THE JOINT
ARRANGEMENT,
THE LEGS
DOUBLE THE
ANGLE ON
FORE-AND-AFT
MOVEMENTS.



GOT
IT!

SO BASICALLY,
YOU WALK
AROUND
WEARING A
MACHINE
THAT COPIES
EVERY
MOVE YOU
MAKE.



WE'RE FLAT
BROKE SO
DON'T
EVEN
THINK
ABOUT
IT!

Hmm. MAYBE
LIGHT WEIGHT
WITH HIGH
TENSILE
STRENGTH
IS THE
ANSWER...



WHAT
?!
I DO
NOT!

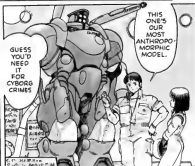
SINCE THE
WHOLE BODY'S
ARMORED,
EVEN HITOMI
COMES OUT
BOWLEGGED...
HEH...

THOUGH
ACTUALLY
YOU DON'T
NEED
ARMOR
BACK THERE
IF YOU
LEARN TO
REACT
RIGHT.

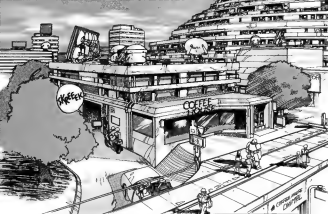


YOU'VE
REALLY
GOT TO
SEE
ONE
FITTED
OUT...

COME
ON...
THERE'S
ONE
ON
DISPLAY
IN THE
SHOWROOM.













SO YOU
INTEND
TO JOIN
THE
FORCE
HERE?

I'LL NEED
ONE IF I
ENLIST.
BESIDES,
I LIKE
BOYS LIKE
THAT.



WELL,
YOU
GUessed
RIGHT,
ANY-
WAY.



AND ANYWAY,
WHAT OTHER
WORK
COULD
I DO?

IF WE WANT
TO EAT, WITHOUT
ENDING UP
GRUBBING IN THE
DIRT ON SOME
FARM, WE BETTER
FIND SOMETHING
WE CAN DO
WELL...



THAT'S
SMUG-
GLING!

Heh, heh...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I HID IT IN THE
BUSHES
DURING
QUARANTINE.



LITTLE
LATE
FOR
A
CAREER
CHANGE...

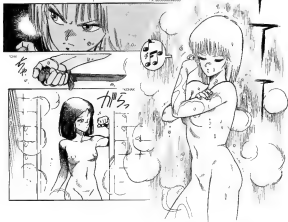


WHERE'D
THAT
COME
FROM
?!

HEY!







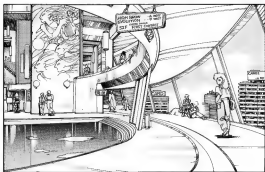
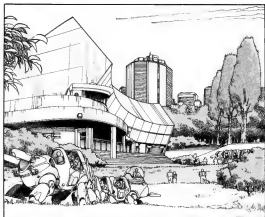




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THE JAPANESE



THE JAPANESE







"Executive organ" here it appears to be a police organization.



YOU ONLY SAY THAT BECAUSE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT MOBILE WEAPONS COULD DO IN A CITY LIKE THIS!



I WOULD-- IF YOU'D SET UP A PROPER MECHANISM FOR MONITORING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL!



YOU SEEM AWFULLY CONCERNED ABOUT THOSE "GUINEA PIGS" HITOMI'S BRINGING IN.



I'VE HAD ENOUGH, ATHENA!



WITH YOU IN SUCH A STATE, I'M FRANKLY MORE CONCERNED ABOUT AEGIS, YOU HAVE A MOUNTAIN OF WORK TO DO.

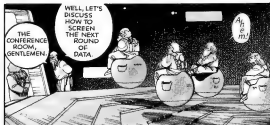
CONSULTING, DEPLOYMENT, LAW ENFORCEMENT, INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS AND MEDIATIONS, ESTABLISHING BORDERS AND TERRITORIAL WATERS, CLEANING UP WAR DAMAGE--IT GOES ON AND ON...







I'M NOT SAYING WE SHOULD ABANDON EVERYTHING HUMAN, OR EVEN THAT WE'RE THE BEST OPTION.

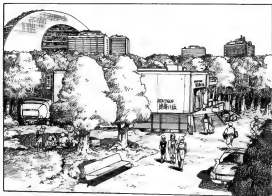




OFF SCREEN









PG. 14/15 (10/15)



*Author: Reappears with flowers



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PG. 0006

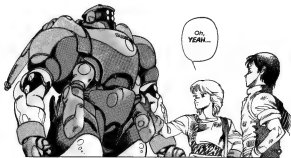
PG. 0007



PG. 0008



Feedback - usually refers to electric transistors, where part of the output of a circuit is put back into the input - increasing the output (positive feedback), or reducing it (negative feedback).



BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF
SOFT-SHELL UNITS... PLUS,
THE BEARINGS IN THE
THREE-AXIS JOINTS AND
THE VIBRATION DAMPERS
IN THE SENSOR KIT ALL
USE MAGNETIC FLUID
COMPONENTS. YOU'LL
DISLOCATE THEM
IF YOU RUN
IT TOO
HARD.

THE
DRIVE
TRAIN
ITSELF
ABSORBS
MOST
OF THE
SHOCK.

WHY ISN'T
THERE
MORE SHOCK
ABSORBING
MATERIAL
IN THE CUSHIONS*
AND THE TENDON
SHEATHS?

*Cushion: Note, a shock absorber mechanism in the vibration.

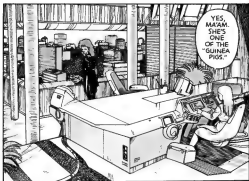
...WE'LL
TAKE CARE
OF THE
PAPERWORK
AND THE
ORDER*
SET
THEN.

YEAH, WELL,
uh, IN THAT
CASE... I'LL CHECK
IT OUT RIGHT
AWAY. Um, WE
RUN REDUNDANT
DIAGNOSTICS,
SO IF YOU
COULD COME
BACK IN
ABOUT THREE
HOURS.

...BUT
I
WANT
THIS
ONE!

LOOK,
I HATE
TO KEEP
ON
LIKE A
BROKEN
RECORD...





DEUNAN
KNUTE?



Room...WITH
HER HERE, IT
MEANS THAT
ALL BUT TWO
OF THE
PEOPLE ON
LIST ONE
ARE
NOW IN
OLYMPUS.



GENETIC
MATERIAL, BIRTH,
CHILD-REARING,
ALL BY THE SAME
MALE-FEMALE
PAIRING. PHYSICAL
SPECS HUMAN,
BUT HER
PERSONALITY
PROFILE IS
JUST WHAT
YOU'D
EXPECT.

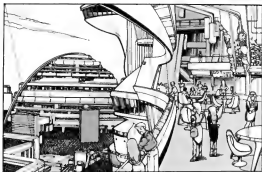


...THEY'D
THROW ME OUT
OF OFFICE FOR
ILLEGAL
POSSESSION
OF
DOCUMENTS.



IF ONLY
WE
COULD
GO PUBLIC
WITH
THIS
DATA...









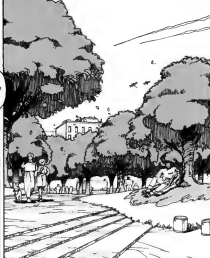
WHAA?!







WOW



OH, WELL--
IT JUST GOES TO
SHOW, IT'S
NOT EASY
BEING AN
ASPHALT
FARMER.



BRIAREOS?
I WOULDN'T
HAVE
EXPECTED
THAT FROM
AN OLD
PARTNER.

SO YOU
DO THINK
ABOUT
SOMETHING
BESIDES
SURVIVAL
AND
MAYHEM...
I HAD
NO
IDEA.



STILL,
I DO
WONDER IF
IT'S GOOD TO
BE SO LAID
BACK. YOU
THINK IT'S AN
OVERREACTION
TO THE
WAR?

AH, THE
GRASS
IS ALWAYS
GREENER.
COMPLAINING
IS A LUXURY.
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
HER...



EVEN
PEOPLE LIKE
US CAN
FIND
WORK--
REJOICE!

OH, SURE.
MUSIC
AND
LAUGHTER
REPLACE
GUNSHOTS
AND
SCREAMS...
THANK
GOD!



ABOUT
THIS
SOCIETY?

...IT'S
JUST
THAT
SHE
GOT
ME
WORRYING.



I GUESS
YOU'RE
RIGHT...









LOOK, I'M
SORRY, BUT I
DON'T WORK
HERE. IF YOU'VE
GOT BUSINESS
WITH ME, YOU
CAN TELL ME
ABOUT IT
ON THE
WAY TO
MY CAR.



H-HE'S A
PUBLIC SERVANT,
REPORTING
STRAIGHT TO THE
DIRECTOR SINCE
BEFORE THE WAR
... NAME OF
AIRUSSES. Uhh...



HEY! YOU
KNOW
THAT
GUY
?!



IF YOU COUNT
THE UNITS WITH
MACROMOLECULAR
PROCESSED
COMPONENTS, A
GOOD EIGHTY
PERCENT OF
THE POPULATION
ARE CLONES.



YES, SIR, A HUMAN
ARTIFICIALLY CREATED
FROM A GENETIC
PATTERN TAKEN FROM
A SPECIFIC DONOR. WE
CALL CLONES WITH
GENETIC MATERIAL FROM
MULTIPLE MOTHER-SOURCE'S
HYBRIDS.* WHEN THEY
GO THROUGH SPECIAL
PROCESSING, WE
CALL THEM
BIORIDS.

OLYMPUS
IS
LEADING
THE WORLD
TO A
BRIGHTER
FUTURE.
WE
NEED
A LOT
OF THEM.



PERSONALITY
AND EMOTIONAL
RESPONSES CAN BE
CONDITIONED BY
TRAINING, EDUCATION,
AND THE CHILD-REARING
ENVIRONMENT... IN A
SENSE, THEY'RE THE
MOST COMPACT, COMPLEX,
AND SOPHISTICATED
ROBOTS
IMAGINABLE.

SIR...?



OF COURSE,
I REALLY
SHOULDN'T
BE TALKING
LIKE
THIS,
BUT...





SHE SAID WE'RE
ANIMALS THAT
BUILD OUR OWN
CAGES AND
HIDE IN THEM...



BUT
DEUNAN...
EVEN PEOPLE
ARE JUST
TOOLS OF
THE
SPIRIT...

EIGHTY
PERCENT
OF THE
POPULATION
...

UTOPIA...?



COULD
YOU GIVE
HER A
MES-
SAGE?

THIS
IS THE
BCSC®

SORRY,
HITOMI'S
NOT
IN,
NOW...

IF SHE
DOESN'T
COME IN
IMMEDIATELY,
THERE'S
NOTHING
WE --

BY NOW, SHE SHOULD BE
EXPERIENCING ANEMIA
AND A SHARP DROP IN
ENERGY LEVELS AS HER
BODY TEMPERATURE
FALLS. SHE'S PROBABLY
SLEEPING LONGER, A
SIGN OF HER BIO-
LOGICAL SYSTEMS
TRYING TO
RECHARGE ON
THEIR OWN.

SHE'S
ALREADY
TWO
DAYS
LATE!

IT'S
TIME
FOR
HER
PERIODIC
LONGEVITY
PROCESSING.

UP
K

I'LL
PASS
IT
ON.

.....

TO BE

WAIT
A
MINUTE
...!

HITOMI!
TOO
...

TO FIGHT

...MAYBE THIS
IS WHAT THE
WAR WAS ALL
ABOUT...

A UTOPIAN CITY
RUN BY PERFECT
PEOPLE. GLOBAL
MANAGEMENT.
IT'S ALL TOO
MUCH...

TO FIGHT



701 2084



I'M HOME...!



GHAA...
THREW
OUT
MY
BACK...



WHAT DO YOU
THINK?! DIDN'T MAKE
A SOUND, DID I?
DIDN'T EVEN
KNOW I WAS
HERE, DID YOU?
DID YOU?
HA, HAHAHA!

701 2084



JUST
LOOK
AT
THE
CARPET!

I'M
STILL
NOT
USED
TO
IT.
I
CAN'T
EVEN
RUN.
THAT'S
WHY
I'M
SO
LATE.

SORRY,
SORRY...



IT'S
SUPER
LIGHT,
BUT
IT
STILL
RESISTS
HEAT,
GASES,
SHRAPNEL,
ALKALI
SOLUTIONS
...

BUT
I
ONLY
HEAR
IT
UNDER
THE
ARMOR,
SO
NO
ONE
CAN
SEE,
ANYWAY.

STOP
IT!
I
DON'T
LIKE
IT
EITHER!

THAT'S
QUITE
A
TIGHT
LITTLE
OUTFIT
...



DEUNAN

BUT
NOW
WE
WON'T
NEED
ANY
SUPPORT.
WE
CAN
TAKE
OUT
THE
TARGETS
FASTER
THAN
EVER.
WITH
A
SIX-MAN
TEAM,
OF
COURSE...

DEUNAN
...

...WITH THIS
I CAN GET BACK
INTO SHAPE.
WHAT A RELIEF!
FINALLY
SOMETHING TO
DO AGAIN...!

RETURN
THAT
THING
TOMORROW.

EVERYTHING'S
ON
HOLD.

LOOK,
I'M SORRY.
I WANTED
TO SAY
THIS
BEFORE
YOU
GOT TOO
CARRIED
AWAY.



WE'RE
IN A
C.A.*

I'M
NOT
JOKING.

A-GAIN?
BRIAREOS!
WHY
ARE YOU
ALWAYS
TEASING
ME!
...HA, HA...

*C.A. = Close Area. It's BRIAREOS' terminology, the area within the firing range of a weaponized enemy—a danger zone.



OR MAYBE
GUINEA
PIGS.

WE'RE
JUST
PAWNS,
DEUNAN...



IT'S
A
TRAP.



TO DO
THOSE JOBS,
YOU NEED
TOOLS, TOOLS
THAT ARE
REALLY
WEAPONS
IN
DISGUISE.



THERE'RE
ONLY A
FEW JOBS
FOR PEOPLE
FROM THE
OUTSIDE,
RIGHT?

WHAT
DO
YOU
MEAN
?



EVEN
HITOMI'S
ONE!

IF IT'S SO
QUIET, THEN
WHY DO
THEY NEED
MACHINES
LIKE THAT? I
THOUGHT
IT WAS
SUPPOSED
TO BE
PEACETIME.

YOU'RE
JUST
PARANOID?
WHO?
AND
WHY?
IT'S SO
QUIET
HERE...!

GENETIC
ENGINEERING'S
OUT OF
CONTROL.

I'LL TELL
YOU WHY
EIGHTY
PERCENT
OF THE
PEOPLE
HERE ARE
ARTIFICIAL.



REAL?
ARTIFICIAL?
A PERSON'S
A PERSON?

I--I DON'T
GIVE
A SHIT!!
WHO
CARES
WHAT SHE
IS!



I
WON'T!
AFTER
ALL THE
TROUBLE
WE'VE
GONE
THROUGH
...



PACK UP
YOUR GEAR
AND GO TO
CHIFFON'S
PLACE.
WAIT THERE
UNTIL WE
KNOW
WHAT'S
GOING ON.



DAMNIT,
THAT'S
NOT THE
POINT!
FOR THE
TIME
BEING,
JUST
DO
AS I
SAY.

GO.







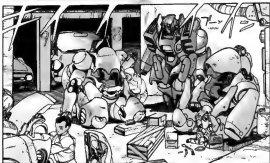
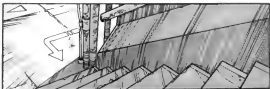
SHE HAS ALL HER STUFF WITH HER? WELL, COULD YOU PUT HER UP FOR THE NIGHT? I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THIS...













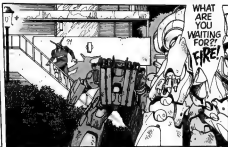


DAMN
IT!

AAA!

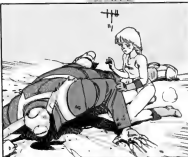


Hm?!



WHAT
ARE
YOU
WAITING
FOR?
FIRE!









THEY'RE TOO TOUGH FOR THESE INEXPERIENCED COPS TO HANDLE



BRI... BRIAREOS!



THEY'RE ~~KOFF~~ THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!



WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR??
GO!!



I'M ALL... ALL RIGHT! I'LL SHUT DOWN AS SOON AS YOU LEAVE!



HEY!
HURRY UP
WITH THAT
ANSW!
WE'LL
CRACK
HIS
CASE
ENROUTE!



WELL, WELL...
THIS
SHOULD BE
AN EXCITING
OPERATION,
ehoh, hoh,
hoh...



Huhm...
IT ENTERED
HERE,
PIERCED THE
HEAT TRANSFER
UNIT MEMBRANE
AND LODGED
IN HIS
BIOSYSTEM.







As should befall



As they

As they



As they





IT'S AN ARMED ROBOTS!





TV BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ



WHY
YOU
NEED
ME, I
DON'T

grumble
grumble

IS THAT
ALL YOU
WANT?
YOU
COULD HAVE
ASKED
THE
RECEPTIONIST.



HEY! DON'T
TOUCH THOSE
GREY SHEETS!
I JUST
FINISHED
PRINTING
THEM
OUT!

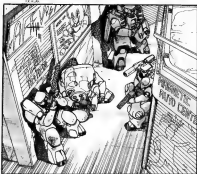
THERE'S A
MAP IN THE
LEFT-HAND
DRAWER OF
MY DESK.
CHECK IT
YOURSELF--
WOON'T
TAKE A
MINUTE.

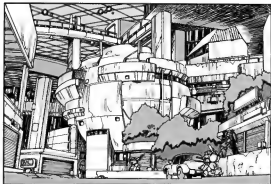


SO
SORRY
TO
INTRUDE
....



GOT
IT!





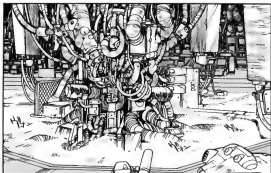


10.4. 1980/1981

10.4. 1980/1981



10.4. 1980/1981



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*CPU: Central Processing Unit. The brain of a computer, consisting of main memory, a controller, and a processor.







THE BLOODY BLOODY BLOODY BLOOD







ALL "BOLD" TEXT IS "BOLD" FOR CLARITY. ALL "BOLD" TEXT IS "BOLD" FOR CLARITY. ALL "BOLD" TEXT IS "BOLD" FOR CLARITY.



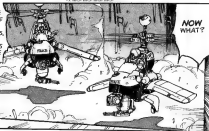




*UHMS: Under-head Mount Sensors--a candidate with its sensor pack mounted under the head



IF WE CLOSE
ON THEM, WE'RE
SITTING DUCKS. IF
WE COME IN
THROUGH THE WEEDS,
YOU SEE WHAT
HAPPENS. THERE'S
NO WAY TO GET THE
JUMP ON THEM...
LEAVE IT TO THE
GRUNTS! LET'S
REPORT IN.



NOW
WHAT?



POST A
CHOPPER
OUTSIDE
EACH
GATE,
THOUGH,
JUST
IN
CASE.

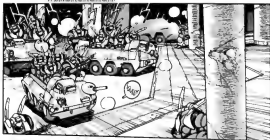
NO, DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT.
THAT'S
FINE.



JUST FORGET
IT AND MOVE!
IF THEY
GET US
SURROUNDED,
WE'RE
FINISHED!

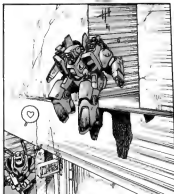
JAMMED!
THAT'S
WHY I
HATE
AUTOMATICS!





QUICK,
OVER
HERE!
THERE'S A
BACK
WAY!









2000



5000 10000 15000 20000 25000 30000 35000 40000 45000 50000 55000 60000 65000 70000 75000 80000 85000 90000 95000 100000



1000 10000 100000 1000000

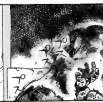


Keywords: child sexual abuse; disclosure; social support



100

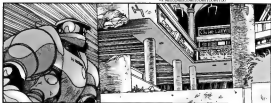






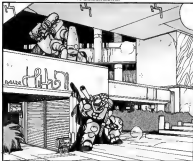






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100



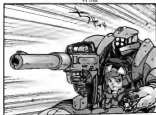








PG. 0068



PG. 0068/0069

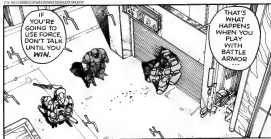




Phew...



114 REVENGE



IF YOU'RE GOING TO USE FORCE, DON'T TALK UNTIL YOU WIN.

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU PLAY WITH BATTLE ARMOR



114 REVENGE





THE ARCADE FIRE (FROM THE BOOK THE ARCADE FIRE)



STOP!
DON'T SHOOT!

OUT
OF
THE
SUIT
!







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NO, I DOUBT YOU'D FIND ANYTHING, AND EVEN IF WE DID, IT'S TO OUR LEGAL ADVANTAGE TO GO THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE.



AUTOPSIES MIGHT SHOW IF THERE'S BEEN ANY TAMPERING WITH THEIR BRAINS...

IF ALL HUMANS WERE LIKE THAT, WE'D HAVE TO CALL THE LEGISLATURE INTO SESSION IMMEDIATELY... BUT THAT GROUP WAS COLLECTED BY THE COUNCIL UNDER SPECIFIC PARAMETERS.



BESIDES, THEY COULDN'T HAVE SMUGGLED IN THAT MUCH FIREPOWER. NO, I'M SURE THE COUNCIL'S BEHIND IT ALL.

NONE OF THE UNSUPERVISED COUNTRIES HAVE THOSE KINDS OF RESOURCES. THEY NEED OUR ASSISTANCE TO SURVIVE

AT LEAST IT'S CLEAR THEY'RE GUERRILLAS. COULD IT BE SOME DEAL WITH ONE OF THE OLD SUPERPOWERS? LOOKING FOR MORE CONDENAL MASTERS...?

THE REAL FIGHT COMES LATER

AT LEAST NOW WE'LL BE ALLOWED TO PUT THOSE GUINEA PISS UNDER SURVEILLANCE.

THAT INCIDENT... WAS IT ATHENA'S I IMAGINE WORK? SHE WAS CURIOUS ABOUT THEIR SUBCONSCIOUS TOO. FOR HER OWN REASONS

LOOKS LIKE THE DEBATE IS FINALLY OVER.



THE INCIDENT
HAS GIVEN
US ANSWERS,
AS WELL.
IT'S
ANOTHER
WEAPON.



WELL,
IT
HARDLY
MATTERS.

COULD
HAVE BEEN
ANY SORT OF
STIMULANT...
PERHAPS
AUTO-
SUGGESTION.

DID
SHE
USE A
WAR
DRUG?

FROM
THE WAY
THINGS WENT
TODAY, WE'LL
HAVE TO
EXPECT A
STRONG
BACKLASH
FROM
AEGIS.

WE'RE THEIR
CHILDREN, MORE
LIKE IT, AND
WE'RE PLANNING
TO MURDER
THEM IN THEIR
SLEEP.

I MUST SAY,
I FEEL AS IF
I'VE SENT MY
ONLY CHILD OFF
ON A LONG
JOURNEY. IMAGINE
--TEARING DOWN
THE BARRIERS
BETWEEN US
AND THE
HUMANS...



AND IT WOULD
SEEM THERE
ARE RATHER
FEWER OF
THEM, NOW...

WE'LL
REALLY
NEED
HITOMI'S
PEOPLE
THEN--

CONFOUND
IT! NOT UNTIL
THEY DELIVER
MY PARTS
FIRST!

EXCUSE
ME, SIR, BUT ALL
THE CHIP MAKERS
ARE CALLING IN
QUOTATIONS ON
THE REPLACEMENT
PARTS FOR
GALA...









WELL, I
GUESS IT'S
TRUE YOU
NEED THE
GUGES.



BLEAH!

NOW
JUST
LOOK
HERE

...BUT I GUESS
IT'S THE BEST CHOICE
FOR A CITY AS
BUILT UP AS THIS ONE
OF COURSE, IF
YOU COULD JUST
BLOW AWAY ANY
BUILDING OR
WHATEVER THAT
GOT IN YOUR WAY...



THE ARMOR
BARELY KEEPS
OUT SHRAPNEL,
IT'S ABOUT
AS NIMBLE AS
A MACK TRUCK,
ALL IT CAN
DO IS
STOMP
AROUND



PRETTY
FUSSY,
AREN'T
YOU,
FIRST
MARKS-
MAN?

IF YOU NEED
SOMETHING TO
DO WHILE I'M
IN HERE, WHY
DON'T YOU
SIGN UP FOR
CHARM SCHOOL?
ANYWAY, MAKE
SURE YOU
VISIT ME
EVERY DAY,
OKAY?



AS LONG
AS
YOU'VE
GOT
GOOD
LEADERS

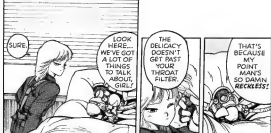
AS LONG
AS THE
CHESS
PIECES ARE
WELL
TRAINED.

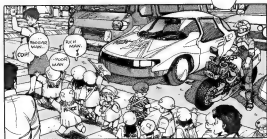
ANYWAY, IF
IT'S GOOD ENOUGH
TO LET YOU
TAKE THE OFFENSIVE
AND WIN AGAINST
AN ENEMY, IT'S
GOOD ENOUGH
TO PROTECT YOU
FROM AN
ENEMY, TOO.

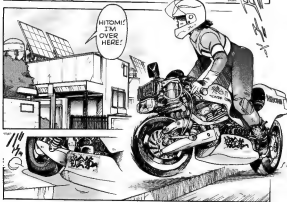


THINK
I'LL GO
SCOUT
AROUND
A
LITTLE.

WELL,
I JUST
HOPE
WE'RE
MORE
THAN
PAWNS.











UNTIL THIS MORNING, MY BIKE WAS IN PIECES...AND GOING OUT FOR SOAP AND STUFF IS SUCH A DRAG, ANYWAY... THE ONLY SHOES I'VE GOT ARE MY CYCLE BOOTS...



APPENDIX

*BGM: CORRECT SOCIAL INTERACTION
INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS MANUAL
FOR GEORGIO PETRONI

士 郎 正 宗

THE PROMETHEAN
CHALLENGE

APPLESEED™

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